

**(WASHINGTON, D.C.)** – U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colorado) today released the following statement criticizing Governor Bill Ritter (D-CO) for his open invitation to incarcerate Guantanamo detainees in Colorado. Coffman is a combat veteran with a combined 21 years of military experience and has served in Iraq twice. He is a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

“The Governor is wrong to encourage the President to go forward with his campaign promise to close the Guantanamo facility by welcoming the detainees to be incarcerated in Colorado. Guantanamo needs to stay open, not only to protect Americans here at home but to protect our Soldiers and Marines serving in harm’s way. There is no doubt the President has the right to review all of the practices used at Guantanamo to determine which ones are acceptable and which ones are not, but he should not close the facility.”